

LESSON

33

RUBRIC

Writing about Literature

COPYMASTER

Writing 33

Directions: Evaluate a response to literature using the table below. For each element of the essay, mark a score from 1–3 indicating “Strong,” “Average,” or “Weak.”

	3 (Strong)	2 (Average)	1 (Weak)
Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis statement is focused and reveals an understanding of the text.• Details and quotations support each key idea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis statement reveals an understanding of the text, but it is too broad or too narrow.• Details and quotations support most key ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis statement is unclear or missing.• Details and quotations are not relevant or too scarce.
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction clearly and provocatively presents the text to be discussed.• Transitions clearly show how ideas connect.• Organization is logical and consistent.• Conclusion summarizes ideas and makes a call to action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction presents text to be discussed but does not draw reader in.• Most transitions work, but more are needed.• Organization shows logic but is inconsistent.• Conclusion simply summarizes ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction does not clearly set up what the response is about.• Writer uses few or no transitions.• Organization is random or disjointed.• The response lacks an identifiable conclusion.
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and voice suit purpose and audience.• Writing reflects active engagement with topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and voice suit purpose and audience but seem flat or direct.• Writing engages topic inconsistently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and voice do not suit purpose or audience.• Writing does not reflect active engagement with topic.
Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words are specific, accurate, and precise.• Well-chosen words and phrases create memorable descriptions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words are adequate and mostly correct.• Familiar words and phrases rarely capture the reader’s imagination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word choice is limited or vague.• Word choice does not capture reader’s imagination.
Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sentences vary in length and structure.• Sentence beginnings are varied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sentence length and structure vary a little.• Sentence beginnings have some variety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sentences do not vary in length and structure.• Many sentences begin the same way.
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling and punctuation are correct.• Grammar and usage are correct.• Paragraphing reinforces organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling and punctuation are uneven.• Grammar and usage are not always correct.• Paragraphing is sometimes inconsistent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling and punctuation are often wrong.• Many grammar and usage errors are present.• Paragraphing is missing or irregular.

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